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Price 25 Cents

Christmas at the Cross Roads.

A HUMOROUS CHRISTMAS PLAY FOR HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS OR ADULTS

By

ELIZABETH F. GUPTILL

A new production by the author of "Cabbage Hill School," and written in the same happy and successful vein. A rural play of unusual strength. It depicts the Church Committee in their preparation for the Christmas celebration, bringing out the interesting peculiarities of local characters, and the vexing tangles in which they are engulfed. Rich in clean, hearty, healthy fun. Seven males, twelve females. About one hour.

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Christmas at the Cross Roads.

A Christmas Play for High School Pupils or Adults.

By Elizabeth F. Guptill.

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CHARACTERS.

Mrs. Hannah Bascom.....A Country Matron
Mr. Elijah Bascom.....Her Husband
Mr. Williams.....The Parson
Miss Elvira Morton.....An Old Maid

Hiram Jones.....
Emeline Jones.....
Josiah Johnson.....
Fannie Lawson.....
Molly Mason..... } The Decorating Committee

Dick..... } Boys who bring tree
Tom..... }

Mr. Jenkins.....
Mr. Thompson.....
Mrs. Lawson.....
Miss Mehitable Mason..... } The Choir

Tommy Lawson.....The Irrepressible Small Boy
Miss Emerson.....The School Teacher

Betty.....
Delia.....
Jennie.....
Katie..... } Four Little Girls who "Speak a Piece."

21 characters, 9 male, 12 female.

If desired, Siah and Hiram may bring in the tree, thus using only 7 male characters.

(The scene is an old-fashioned country school-house, very bare and empty. Mrs. Bascom enters, looks around.)

Mrs. Bascom. Wal, I'm here fust, it seems. Thought I would be. I allers cal'late to be on time. Guess I'll take off my bunnit and shawl, and make myself to hum. (She removes them, goes out to hang them up, and returns, seats herself in the teacher's chair, and begins to knit on a blue yarn sock, which she takes from the pocket at her side.) There! I guess I can get a good view of everything that's going on from here, and hear everything, too. 'Twill be real nice and sociable.

(Mr. Williams enters.)

Mr. Williams. Good-afternoon, Mrs. Bascom.

Mrs. Bascom. Why, how you scared me, Passon! I didn't know a body was a-nigh me. Didn't know you was on committee, anyhow.

Mr. Williams. I am not on the committee, Mrs. Bascom; but I thought I might, perhaps, assist with the decorations.

Mrs. Bascom. Now, Passon, 'f I's you, I wouldn't. Them gals on that committee's dratful friv'lous, and they may make you forget your dignity. I don't hold with a minister forgetting his dignity with young folks.

Mr. Williams. But I am young myself, Mrs. Bascom.

Mrs. Bascom. You're twenty-five, if you're a day, and you're a minister of the gospel, and

shouldn't have too much to do with the young gals. They're flighty, and they're setting their caps fur you, every one on 'em. There's Fannie Lawson, now. Everybody knows—

(Voices and laughter outside. Mr. Williams interrupts, hurriedly.)

Mr. Williams. Ah! here come some of the young people.

(The decorating committee enters, breezily, bringing evergreens and scarlet berries in large baskets. Hiram has a step-ladder. They appear astonished and displeased at seeing Mrs. Bascom.)

Molly. Why, Mrs. Bascom, we didn't expect to see you. Which committee are you on?

Mrs. Bascom. I hain't on any committee, Mary Ann Mason, an' you know it. But the school-house is deestrick property, I s'pose, and I've as good a right here as any on you. If you young folks thought you'd get the better o' me by leaving me off the committee, you're left. 'F I's you, Hiram Jones, I'd put that 'ere ladder down and go to work, 'stead o' gawping at your elders, with yer mouth wide open. Makes you humblier'n usual, an' land knows, there no need o' that.

Hiram (laughing loudly). Haw! haw! Reckon yer right, Aunt Hannah. I be n't no great to look at, be I, Molly?

Molly (who has been scowling at Mrs. Bascom). I don't see but you look as well as some

other folks, if only you wouldn't keep a-running your fingers through your hair.

Hiram. Tell yer what, Molly, you fix it for me, so's Aunt Hannah kin see how pooty I really be.

Molly. Don't be so silly, Hi!

(They step aside; Hiram seats himself, and Molly arranges his hair.)

Josiah. What we gwine ter do with all this 'ere green stuff, anyway?

Emeline. Oh, put it up on the wall in garlands and wreaths.

Josiah. In *what* 'n' wreaths?

Emeline. Garlands, stupid! Long festoons, like this.

Josiah. Oh, yes, I see. Let it hang in loops. I c'n do that, if you'll show me how, Emmie.

Emeline. All right. I'll hand it to you, 'Siah.

Josiah. So do!

Fannie. And I'll make wreaths.

(Sits down and commences to make one. Presently she calls—)

Fannie. Oh, Mr. Williams, have you got a jack-knife?

Mr. Williams (going up to her). Certainly, Miss Fannie, but I have just had it sharpened, and I fear you may cut your little white fingers.

Mrs. Bascom (aside). H'm! I guess if she helped her ma a little more with the dishrag and mop, her fingers wouldn't be so little and white. (To Emeline). Emmie, can't you make wreaths?

Emeline. Why, yes, Aunt Hanah. But I'm helping 'Siah now. There's four to make wreaths a'ready.

(They go to work busily, working in pairs. Put in plenty of by-play, quiet spooning, etc.)

Mrs. Bascom. I wouldn't droop it that-a-way; 'twill take twice as much.

Josiah. Wal, thar's a-plenty on't, I'm sure.

Emeline. Land, yes, Aunt Hannah! The woods is full of it.

Mrs. Bascom. An' nothing would suit ye better, I s'pose, then to get some more.

Josiah. You bet! It's rare sport.

Mrs. Bascom. You'd better go help 'em make wreaths, Emmie. You ain't doing a blame thing.

Emmie. Why, yes, I am, too. I'm superintending the festooning. Besides, four's enough. (Aside, to Mrs. Bascom.) I ain't a-running after no ministers.

Mrs. Bascom (aside). Wal, ef you want thet stuck up Fannie Lawson to kerry him off under yer nose, and all for that clodhopper of a 'Siah, I don't think much o' yer taste, ner yet o' yer brains.

Emeline. Excuse me, Aunt Hannah, but the *committee* must work.

Mr. Williams (looking up). Yes, indeed; no sluggards allowed here.

Mrs. Bascom. I don't think it's very seemly in you, Mr. Williams, to leave me off'n the com-

mittee, and then call me a sluggard, an' try to drive me out.

Mr. Williams. I assure you, Mrs. Bascom, I had no idea—

Hiram (to Molly). So I've thought, sometimes, when he was a-preachin'.

Mr. Williams. No idea at all of calling you—

Mrs. Bascom. An' yer a good deal younger'n me, Passon, an' seein's you wasn't in the pulpit, 'twarn't quite the thing.

Mr. Williams. Really, Mrs. Bascom—

Mrs. Bascom. Oh, I hain't mad, Passon, an' I'm a-goin' to stay. My niece needs a shapperony here, with all these young men.

Hiram. A *what,* Aunt Hannah?

Mrs. Bascom. A shapperony, I said, Hiram, 'n' if you hadn't been so busy trying to tie a wreath up and hold Mary Ann Mason's hand at the same time, p'r'aps you'd a-heard me the fust time.

Molly (to Hiram). I do wish she wouldn't call me Mary Ann!

Mrs. Bascom. I believe in calling things by their right names, an' people, too. You was named Mary Ann when old Passon Meader christened you, 'n' you screeched like murder, 'n' banged him in the eye with yer little red fist.

Molly. Served him right for giving me such a dreadful name.

Fannie (innocently). But what is a shapperony, Mrs. Bascom?

Mrs. Bascom (tartly). A married woman, to go with a young gal to places, to see that she

behaves herself and don't go chasing after black-coats.

'Siah (whistling). Wh—ew!

(Dick and Tom enter, bringing tree.)

Dick. Where shall we set this 'ere?

Emmie. Oh, right here—I think (indicating place).

Mrs. Bascom. No, here (indicating different place).

Emmie. Where do you think, Mr. Williams?

Mr. Williams. In the center, front, of course.

Hiram. Yes, boys, right there. Oh, Jehosh-aphat!

Molly. What is it, Hi?

Hiram. Old Maid Morton. As if Aunt Hannah warn't enough, without her sticking in her skinny fingers and corkscrew curls.

Molly. Oh, dear! I hope I'll die before I turn into such a mean old maid as she is.

Hiram. Tell ye, Molly, I know something wuth two that! Git married! Haw! haw!

(Enter Miss Morton.)

Miss Morton. Well, good-afternoon, Mrs. Bascom. So you're here, superintending your decorating committee.

Mrs. Bascom (who has begun to decorate the tree with popcorn, but who promptly sits down and begins to knit). *My* decorating committee! I warn't on committee, Elviry Morton, no more'n you was. They left the old folks out this time.

Miss Morton. Old folks, indeed! Speak for

yourself, Hannah Bascom. I'm not as old as you are, anyhow!

Mrs. Bascom. How much lack on't, Elviry?

Miss Morton (going up to workers). Oh, what elegant wreaths! How do you do it, Mr. Williams—this way (attempting one)?

Mr. Williams. I'm only learning, Miss Morton. Miss Fannie will show you, I'm sure.

Fannie. Certainly. That isn't the way, Miss Morton; that looks skimpy.

Miss Morton. When I want your help, Fannie Lawson, I'll call for it. I've made wreaths afore—afore you moved here, land knows.

Hiram. Yes, indeed, Fannie, long afore you was born.

Miss Morton. I'm not quite a centurion yet, Hi Jones. Mr: Williams, don't you think this wreath is quite felicitous?

Mr. Williams (hesitatingly). Er—it ought to be a little thicker, don't you think, to go with the rest?

Miss Morton. I don't care to have it equilibriate with the rest. I prefer my work to be noticeable.

Mrs. Bascom. It is, Elviry. It sartinly is.

Miss Morton. I want it to be. Graceful, artistic, uneeky.

Molly. It's uneeky, all right; but we can't use it. It will spoil the harmony of the decorating scheme. They must look alike.

Miss Morton. Look alike, indeed! Just think what a monogamous world this would be if we all looked alike.

Fannie. Deliver us from that!

Mollie. Yes, indeed.

Miss Morton. I think my wreath is more artistical, at any rate, and it's a-going to continuate as it is. (Proceeds to make another.)

Molly. Oh, please, Miss Morton, don't waste the evergreen.

Miss Morton. Who's a-wasting it?

Molly. You are! We can't use those things, and we don't want any help.

Mrs. Bascom. Why don't you let 'em be, Elviry? You warn't on committee. Let the young folks be.

Miss Morton. If I want to make wreaths, Hannah Bascom, I'm a-going to make 'em; an' as for young folks, I ain't old folks yet myself. They are the buds; I am the half-blown flower.

'Siah. Good gracious! How old do you s'pose she'll hev to be before she's full blown, Emmie? Two hundred?

Emmie. Keep still, 'Siah, do! Don't get her over here, for goodness' sake!

'Siah. All right. How's this?

Miss Morton (coming forward). Why don't ye droop it more?

'Siah. Don't want to. Let's get that other basket, Emmie.

(They pass out. Miss Morton hesitatingly ascends step-ladder, then gives wild scream.)

Mrs. Bascom. What's the matter, Elviry? Did you see a spider?

Mollie. Or a mouse?

Fannie. 'Twas a snake, wasn't it, Miss Morton?

Miss Morton. Oh! How shall I ever get down?

Hiram. Jump!

Miss Morton. I don't dare to jump. I sh'd break my neck.

Hiram. Don't land on your neck. Land on your feet.

Miss Morton. But I should confiscate my ankle.

Mrs. Bascom. Crawl down, Elviry. You're a sight up there.

Molly. If my ankles were as skinny as that, I'd want them confiscated, I'm sure.

Miss Morton. Oh, I shall fall! I shall fall!

Hiram (shaking ladder). Come on, I'll help ye!

Miss Morton (screaming). Go away, Hiram Jones. You're a-shaking it a-purpose, you know you be. Mr. Williams, won't you assist me to alight?

Mr. Williams (getting up slowly). Certainly. (He ascends a step or two, and succeeds in bringing her down, with much fuss and screaming. At the bottom she promptly faints, but he adroitly manages to have her fall into Mrs. Bascom's arms instead of his own.)

Miss Morton (straightening up quickly). You needn't a-pinched me, Hannah Bascom.

Mrs. Bascom. Why, Elviry, that's the best way to bring folks out'n of a fainting fit. Brings 'em out all right, every time.

(She seats her on a desk, and fans her with her apron. Miss Morton looks daggers at the minister, who has returned to Fannie. The choir enters, accompanied by Tommy Lawson.)

Mrs. Lawson. Land sakes! Hain't ye through decorating yet?

Fannie. Of course not, ma. (To Tommy.) Run back to ma; I don't want ye.

Tommy. The minister does. Ministers like little boys. (Climbs, uninvited, on Mr. Williams' knee.)

Mrs. Lawson. Wal, we got to rehearse, anyhow.

Miss Mason. That's so. What shall we try first?

Mr. Thompson. "While Shepherds Watched."

Mr. Jenkins. No, "Antioch."

(They turn the leaves of their hymn-books vigorously.)

Miss Mason. Page 228.

Mrs. Lawson. No, 'tisn't, Mehitable. It's 42.

Miss Mason. That's "Antioch."

Mrs. Lawson. O' course.

Mr. Thompson. We're going to sing "While Shepherds Watched," Mrs. Lawson.

Mrs. Lawson. Why, no we hain't, neither. Mr. Jenkins said "Antioch."

Miss Mason. Well, I guess Mr. Jenkins ain't the leader.

Mrs. Lawson. Neither are you, Mehitable Mason!

Miss Mason. Pitch it, Mr. Thompson.

(Mr. Thompson takes a tuning fork or pitch pipe from his pocket and pitches the tune. He and Miss Mason begin to sing. Sing one line.)

Mr. Thompson. Come, where's the treble and bass? We can't sing with jest tenor and counter.

Mrs. Lawson. You'll have to, I guess, if you sing that. We're going to sing "Antioch."

(They start in, and sing the first verse. The others make a vain attempt to start their song again. At close of first verse, they start in again on their song, the others vigorously singing "Antioch." Each pair tries to drown the others.)

Mrs. Bascom. Wal, of all the caterwaulin' I ever heard!

Miss Morton. It's perfectly amorphous!

Tommy. Go it! go it! I bet on ma! She kin screech loudest.

Hiram. Let's help 'em, Molly. (Sings "Glory, glory, hallelujah!")

Miss Emerson (entering, with several children). What in the world?

'Siah. Only a cat concert, teacher. Walk right in. Don't be afeared of the animiles. They don't bite.

Miss Emerson. But what—

'Siah. That's the way they always sing in this deestrick, teacher. Don't you like it?

Miss Emerson. Isn't it rather—

Hiram. That's just what it is—rather!

Miss Emerson. Do you know your piece, Tommy?

Tommy. Yep.

Fannie. Don't answer so, Tommy. Speak up pretty.

(Tommy stands up and speaks his piece at the top of his voice, regardless of the singing. He speaks in a jerky, sing-song manner.)

Tommy—

Oh, Christmas is coming. It's on the way.
Old Santa's a-riding in piled-up sleigh,
Surrounded with gimcracks, with dolls and toys;
He's bringing 'em all to good girls and boys.

(To Miss Emerson.) Say, he won't bring the choir none, will he?

Miss Emerson. Why, yes, I guess so, Tommy.

Tommy. No, he won't, neither, 'cause they fight so.

Fannie. Sh, Tommy!

Tommy. Just you stop sh—ing all the time! I'm a-speaking my piece.

Fannie. You don't seem to be.

Tommy. Well, I am. I'm just a-going on. Say, Mr. Williams, do you like punkins?

Mr. Williams. I like pumpkin pie, Tommy.

Tommy. Well, Fannie hain't pumpkin pie!

Mr. Williams. I never supposed she was, my boy.

Tommy. Well, Miss Ole Maid Elviry Morton said—

Hiram. Miss who? Which? What?

Tommy. Miss Ole Maid Elviry Morton said the minister thought our Fannie was some punkins! Do you, Mr. Williams?

Mr. Williams. I respect your sister very highly, Tommy, but I certainly should not compare her to a pumpkin. She's more like a flower or—a peach, perhaps.

Tommy (running noisily to Miss Morton and calling loudly). Miss Ole Maid Elviry Morton, the minister don't think our Fannie's a punkin. He says she a peach and a posy.

Fannie. Tommy!

Tommy. Well, he said so, anyhow. Didn't you, Mr. Williams?

Mr. Williams. Not exactly, Tommy.

Tommy. Yes you did, too! and you said you expected her.

Hiram. Haw! haw! good for Tommy! Here's a penny, youngster. What makes you call Miss Morton all that string o' names?

Tommy. Fannie calls her Ole Maid Morton, an' ma says I must call her Miss Morton, and *she* says I must call her Miss Elviry, 'cause she's quite young yet—

Hiram. Haw! haw! Young yet! So was Old Grimes!

Miss Morton (who has been attracted by the mention of her name). You'd better look out for this owdacious young gentleman, Sally Lawson, instead of quarrelating so over the symphony you're a-trying to voiciate up there!

Mrs. Lawson. Tommy, be a good boy.

Tommy. Yas'um. (Goes to Mrs. Bascom.)

Say, Mrs. Bascom, *do* they wear 'em on their hands?

Mrs. Bascom. Land sakes, Tommy! *What* air you a-talking of? Wear what on their hands?

Tommy. The stockings. Do the heathen wear 'em on their hands?

Mrs. Bascom. Why, no, of course not. Why?

Tommy. Well, Hi, he said that you was allus a-knittin' everlastin' blue stockings for the heathen, an' he said they wouldn't know whether they was earmuffs or mittens.

Mrs. Bascom. I don't send 'em the stockings, Tommy. I sell 'em and send the money.

Tommy. Oh, yes; but pa says the heathen never get any of the pennies we send 'em, 'cause the missionaries gobble 'em up.

'Siah. Gobble up which, Tommy, the pennies or the heathen?

Tommy. The heathen, o' course. No, I mean the pennies. I don't give mine any more; I keep 'em for gum.

Mrs. Lawson. Tommy!

Tommy. Yas'um.

Mrs. Lawson. Sit down and keep still, or I'll see to you!

(Tommy sits down a little while, then fidgets around again.)

Miss Emerson. Come, girls, you may rehearse now.

(The girls come forward. Betty giggles, Delia hangs her head, Jennie cries, Katie fidgets.)

Miss Emerson. Come, now, do it nicely. Hold up your head, Delia! Stand still, Katie! Don't laugh, Betty! There, Jennie, no one's going to hurt you.

Jennie. They're all a-looking at me!

Miss Emerson. Well, that doesn't hurt you. Come, now, be brave, if you want something nice on the tree.

Jennie (sobbing.) There hain't nothin' on it, 'tall!

Miss Emerson. Well, there will be. Come, don't cry!

(Jennie wipes her eyes on her apron, also her nose.)

Miss Emerson. Come, Katie, stand still, and begin.

Katie—

The Christmas tree's the nicest tree
That grows in any wood.
It bears such fruit for little boys
And little girls who're good.

Tommy. Ho! ho! Little boys don't have to be good!

Miss Emerson. Tommy!

Tommy. Yas'um. I forgot.

Miss Emerson. Go on, Delia. Hold your head up!

(Delia lifts her head, then drops it as she recites. Occasionally she lifts it, only to hang it again. She fingers her dress uneasily.)

Delia—
The apple tree is very fine,
The pine is very tall;
The elm, the oak, the birch, the ash—
This tree can beat 'em all.

Miss Emerson. Now, Betty!

Betty—
Just see the presents that it holds!
(Tee-hee-hee!)

Miss Emerson. Don't laugh, Betty!

Betty. Well, but it don't hold a one! Tee-hee-hee! It's barer'n Job's turkey!

Miss Emerson. Well, it will hold presents to-night. Go on!

Betty—
Just see its candles bright;
(Tee-hee!)
See all the pretty dolls and toys—
(Tee-hee-hee!)
Oh, isn't it a sight!
I sh'd think it was! (Tee-hee-hee!)

Miss Emerson. No, no, Betty. The last line was wrong—

Oh, what a pleasant sight!

Say it again, and don't giggle so.

(Betty puts her hand over her mouth, laughs, then says the verse at lightning speed, ending with a burst of laughter.)

Miss Emerson. Now, Jennie!
Jennie (whimpering). I don't wanter.
Miss Emerson. Oh, yes, you do! Begin now! Oh, yes—

Jennie (her fists in her eyes)—
Oh, yes—we love—the Christmas tree;
(Sniffs.)

Miss Emerson. We love—

Jennie—
We love—its—pretty toys!
(Sniffs again.)

Miss Emerson. We're glad—

Jennie—
We're glad—

Tommy. I sh'd think she was glad!
Miss Emerson. Tommy!
Tommy. Yas'um! I furgot!
Miss Emerson. We're glad—go on, Jennie.

Jennie—
We're glad we've tried through all the year
To be good girls an' boys!

(She says these two lines very fast, her voice gradually rising, and ending in a shriek, then cries into her apron.)

Miss Emerson. Now, altogether! (They join hands, Betty and Katie taking forcible possession of Jennie's hands.)

All—

Then dance around the Christmas tree,
With happy hearts and gay;
Such fruit it bears for you and me,
This happy Christmas day!

(Each recites in her own way, Jennie ending with a whining "day" after the others have finished.)

Mr. Williams. A very pretty piece, I'm sure; and they will say it nicely, I'm sure!

Miss Emerson (doubtfully). I hope so.

Miss Morton. I'm sure they ejaculated it beautiferously, Miss Emerson. If Jennie is a little lachrymosic, it but affords a delicious contrast to Betty's jubilous hilearity.

Mrs. Bascom. Do talk English, Elviry Morton!

Miss Morton. Why, I do, Hannah Bascom—elegant English, I'm sure! I'm not to blame if you can't understand the longer words.

Hiram (aside). Nor are we!

Miss Morton. I always did like to use anomalous syllables. They're so poetic! So malodorous!

Miss Emerson (aside). I should think they were, indeed!

(The choir, who have been scowling and whispering, now rise and sing, *together*, "While Shepherds Watched." They sing in poor time, and put on plenty of frills. At end of first verse, Mr. Bascom puts in his head and calls to his wife.)

Mr. Bascom. Harner! Ain't you a-comin' hum to-night?

Mrs. Bascom. Land yes, 'Lijah! Wait a minute!

Emmie. Wasn't the music good, Uncle 'Lijah!

Mr. Bascom. Music! I didn't hear no music! Chasin' arter each other that-a-away ain't music! I'd rather listen to my old cow. Come on, Harner!

Mrs. Bascom. I'm a-comin', 'Lijah, I tell yer! Jest as soon's I knit to my seam needle. (She does so, then goes out, saying.) Wal, I'll see all on ye later, I s'pose! (To Mrs. Lawson.) You kin ride ef ye like, Sally.

Mrs. Lawson. Thank you, Hannah! I will. I've got bread a-rising. Come, Tommy.

Tommy. I'm going to wait for Fannie.

Betty. So'm I.

Fannie. Dear me, ma! I don't want 'em. Take 'em along with you—Tommy, anyway. You never know what he'll say next.

Mrs. Lawson. Come, Tommy boy. Come with mamma.

Tommy. I don't wanter. I want to walk with the minister, too!

Mr. Bascom (calling outside). Harner!

Mrs. Bascom. Yes, 'Lijah, I'm a-coming. Come, Sally.

(They go out hastily, as Mr. Bascom calls again. Tommy remains.)

Miss Emerson. Little boys who don't mind mustn't expect pretty things on the tree.

Tommy. I'll get a jack-knife, I know. The minister promised it to me if I'd stay out of the parlor last night.

Fannie. Tommy!

Mr. Jenkins. Tommy, want to ride home horseback?

Tommy. Yep!

Mr. Jenkins (going out). Come on, then.

Delia. Come on, girls, I'm going, too.

(The girls and Miss Emerson go out; Mr. Thompson and Miss Mehitable Mason remain and begin to trim the tree.)

Mr. Thompson (taking a box from his pocket). Guess what I have here, Miss Hitty!

Miss Mason. I'm sure I couldn't.

Mr. Thompson. Come see! (He takes a spray of mistletoe from the box, and proceeds to fasten it up.) Where would you hang it, Miss Hitty? (He manages to hold it over her head and kisses her.)

Miss Morton (bustling up). Mistletoe! Why, how romantic! How idea-illic!

Tommy (appearing). What's mistletoe?

Fannie. Dear me, Tommy, I thought you'd gone home!

Tommy. Nope. Thought I wouldn't. More fun here. Mr. Thompson, what's mistletoe?

Mr. Thompson (pointing). That is, Tommy!

Tommy. But what's it for?

Mr. Thompson. Why, you see, Tommy, if you can catch a young lady standing under it, you may kiss her.

Tommy. I don't wanter.

Mr. Thompson. I mean any young man can who catches her.

Tommy. Pooh! A rose in her hair's just as good. Last night—

Fannie. Tommy Lawson!

Hiram. What about last night, Tommy?

Tommy. Ho! ho! Miss Ole Maid Elviry Morton's standing right under it. Why don't nobody kiss her?

'Siah (aside). Why, indeed!

Miss Morton (stepping back). Why, I was right beneath it, wasn't I? Thank you for telling me, Tommy.

Hiram. What about last night, Tommy?

Tommy. Fannie had a rose in her hair, and— (To Miss Morton.) You're a-standin' under it again. 'F you don't look out, *you'll* get kissed.

'Siah. Why, who else got kissed, Tommy?

Tommy. I dassn't tell. The minister wouldn't like it. You're most under it again. You'd better work this side of the tree.

Hiram. Come here, Tommy. (Whispers to him.)

(Tommy starts to run, falls down just under the mistletoe, and begins to cry loudly. Miss Morton bends over him, and Fannie hastens to him also. Mr. Williams follows. Tommy looks up, laughing; Fannie starts back, and is kissed by the minister. Tommy runs to Hiram, saying loudly.)

Tommy. Now, hand out your quarter. I got her there, and the minister kissed her!

Fannie. Tommy Lawson!

Tommy. Well, Hi said he'd give a quarter to see how quick the minister'd start if you was under there 'stead o' her (pointing), and I want it.

Miss Morton (indignantly). Mr. Williams, I am flabbergasted at such inministerial actions. I demand that that frivolious piece of horticulture be instantly removed.

Mr. Williams. But, Miss Morton, it is only innocent amusement.

Miss Morton. Innocent amusement, indeed! Pretty actions for a minister! I shall not countenance such disrageous disregard of the improprieties. I shall inform the deacons, and have the minister church-mauled. I certainly shall.

(She sails out, indignantly.)

Tommy (calling). Miss Morton, I didn't mean to make you mad!

Miss Morton (looking back). *You* didn't Tommy! (Sails out.)

Tommy. Who did, I wonder?

Mr. Thompson, Hiram and *'Siah* (in concert.) Yes, who did? We wonder, too!

Tommy. But what's she mad at?

'Siah. Go ask her, Tommy!

Tommy (running out). I will!

Hiram. What could she be mad at, Miss Fannie? Isn't it queer?

(Curtain.)

A Choice List of the Brightest Entertainments

Al Martin's Country Store. A burlesque entertainment for from 15 to 30 participants. Written by Archibald Humboldt and Martelle Everett. This entertainment is unsurpassed for merriment, taking powers and ease of production. A country store with all its peculiar environments is depicted. The loafers, the small customers, the gossipers, the lovers, the innocent fun-makers, all have parts. The lifelike reality of all that takes place gives an irresistible charm to the proceedings. There is a graceful plot that gathers interest as the play proceeds, and culminates in a brilliant climax. Unquestionably the greatest success as a popular entertainment. Time, 1 to 2 hours. 25 cents.

American Patriotic Songs for Schools. Contains words and music complete. A splendid collection of the best patriotic songs. Nothing so stirring, hearty, helpful. Just the book for the patriotic celebrations. New enlarged edition. 5 cents each; 50 cents a dozen; $4.00 per hundred.

Bethlehem Babe, The. A sweet song-story of the Christ child. Can be sung either as a solo or chorus. A perfect gem. Sheet music. Words by Elizabeth F. Guptill; music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. 25 cents.

Blacksmith, The. A rollicking song which savors strongly of hammer and anvil. Solo and chorus. Sheet music. Words by Elizabeth F. Guptill; music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. 25 cents.

Bow-bearers to Chief Red Cloud. Indian song novelty, for even number of boys. Any age. Characteristic Indian features introduced. Words and music by Effie Louise Koogle. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Cabbage Hill School. A humorous play for children or young people, by Elizabeth F. Guptill. Presents the trials of a new "skewl-marm" in the opening day, and the performances of the pupils in the presence of august visitors on closing day. A veritable mirth-provoker. Full of the richest humor. 10 male, 16 female characters (or less). 25 cents.

Christmas at Skeeter Corner. By Elizabeth F. Guptill. A humorous play for children and young folks. One of the most delightful entertainments ever given. It represents a school of fifty years ago, and the preparation for the Christmas entertainment. It is fun from beginning to end, and the humor is of the rarest sort. Easy to prepare. No bothersome requirements; only one scene. Can be given by five boys and seven girls, but a few more are better, and any number can be used. 15 cents.

Christmas for all Nations. By Elizabeth F. Guptill. A play for children or young folks. This is a very instructive exercise, full of inspiration. It introduces children from heathen nations, who describe their customs and beliefs. The text is in rhyme, and is excellently done. Can not fail to interest. Suitable for a Sunday-school or missionary entertainment. Requires 7 boys and 8 girls. 15 cents.

Christmas Dream, A. By Elizabeth F. Guptill. A play for children. Introduces Santa Claus and several of Mother Goose's children in new rhymes and clever antics. The costume requirements are easy to provide, and the dialog is spicy and interesting. 5 boys and 5 girls. 15 cents.

Christmas Dialogs, Guptill's Original. By Elizabeth F. Guptill. Few persons have the ability to write dialogs as successfully as the author of this collection. Here are many of her choicest productions. The contents are not only intensely interesting, but the dialogs can be given anywhere and with few requirements. For children of all ages. 25 cents.

Christmas Dialogs and Plays. A superb new collection of strictly original dialogs and plays, all expressly for Christmas. Written by the most successful authors, such as Jean Halifax, Faith Dennison and Catherine Wentworth Rothsay. Original, clever, appropriate, delightful. 25 cents.

Christmas Joke, A. By Elizabeth F. Guptill. A play for 12 male and 12 female characters. May be given by children or by persons of various ages, or as a burlesque by grown people. Santa trims a Christmas tree for Mother Goose's children, and Jack changes the labels. The result is indescribably funny. The entire play is in rhyme of the catchiest sort. The humor is intense. Every moment is a climax. 25 cents.

Christmas at Santa Claus' House. A play for young people, by Elizabeth F. Guptill. By means of an airship some children visit Santa Claus, and see all the wonders of his land. Full of the liveliest happenings and interesting occurrences. Will prove most delightful. 8 male, 14 female characters. 25 cents.

Christmas Budget. Contains "The Christmas Alphabet," a dialog for 26 children; "Christmas Tableaux," seven in number, and "The Christmas March," a spectacular performance, by Elizabeth F. Guptill. All of these items have real merit, and are practical. 15 cents.

Christmas Recitations, Guptill's Original. This is a very select collection of really meritorious and really delightful pieces. Each recitation is admirably written, has a very decided point and a perfect climax. No "filling" in this book. If you want **good** recitations, get this. 15 cents.

Christmas Star March and Drill. Various figures of fancy marches and a captivating drill. Superbly brilliant. For 16 to 24 girls. No scenery required. Full and complete diagrams and directions. Very easy to give. The effect is most pleasing. 15 cents.

Churning. The story in song of the little folks' visit to Grandpa, and their experience as butter makers. For any number of boys and girls. Words by Elizabeth F. Guptill; music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Crowning the May Queen. A spectacular play for children, by Elizabeth F. Guptill. They go maying, select and crown a queen, wind the Maypole, and have a merry time. In the midst of the frolic they are thrown into great excitement by the appearance of a gypsy, who attempts to abduct them. A very clever plot and a happy arrangement. Sure to prove effective. May be given by nine boys and eight girls, or 17 girls. 25 cents.

Colonial Minuet, A. By Effie Louise Koogle. New music, and full directions for rendering the stately and graceful minuet our grandmas danced long years ago. Four, eight or sixteen couples. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Col. Zoozoo's Zobo Band. By Effie Louise Koogle. Patriotic Burlesque Novelty for an even number of boys or girls, or both. Any age. Will do for adults. Presents a patriotic medley, with other interesting features. May also be used to intersperse with other numbers of a program, taking the place of an orchestra. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Contest of the Nations, The. A spectacular play or cantata. By Elizabeth F. Guptill. Introduces the Goddess of Liberty and twelve nations which compete for the laurel crown. It embraces a fine new march and a number of splendid songs, for which music has been written by Archibald Humboldt. This will make a grand performance. Characters, 13 young ladies. 25 cents.

Cupid's Queries. A very cute solo for a small boy or girl impersonating Cupid, in which some threatening difficulties are disposed of. A "winner" for any occasion. Words and music by Effie Louise Koogle. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Cupid's Joke. A charming little drama in which Cupid plays an important part. A splendid society play for St. Valentine's Day or any social occasion. 5 male and 5 female characters, and Cupid. 3 scenes, 45 minutes. By Effie Louise Koogle. Sheet music. 15 cents.

Dialogs for Any Time, Original. By Elizabeth F. Guptill Interesting and amusing dialogs, which may be given in any room, with very few property requirements, by primary and intermediate grades. The name of the author is a guarantee of their excellence. They are witty, spicy and lively. 25 cents.

Dispelling of Big Jim, The. A negro farce in one act. By Sterling C. Brewer. A decidedly humorous sketch. Big Jim is being tried by the officials of Big Bethel church for some misdemeanor. The trial is full of interesting occurrences, and culminates in an exciting event. Full of darky humor. 8 male characters. Time, 30 minutes. 15 cents.

Dolly Show, The. A dialogue in rhyme for 7 little girls and 2 boys. The girls have a baby show with their dollies, and each "mother" shows her baby off to the best advantage. The judge is unusually wise, awarding the prize to the satisfaction of each one. The sayings of the little ones are cute, and the whole performance a great success. 15 cents.

Dolly, Stop Weeping. The sweetest doll lullaby ever written. Cute words, soothing melody, and graceful motions. A very rare production, which we commend most highly. Words by Elizabeth F. Guptill, music by Harry Carlton Eldridge. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Flower Nymphs' Surprise, The. Operetta for children or adults. By Effie Louise Koogle. The Flower-Land Nymphs are frightened by sudden encounter with a lot of Imps. Confusion ensues until Aurora appears. Imps prove to be princes bearing message to Aurora, and an invitation for Nymphs to feast in Sunlight Palace. The music is brilliant and captivating. Splendid for Last Day program. Two scenes. 8 boys and 8 girls, or more. Any age. One hour. 30 cents.

Dolly, You Must Go to Bed. Words by Elizabeth F. Guptill, music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. A charming doll's lullaby for any number of little mothers. It will soothe the most stubborn baby. Sheet music. 25 cents.

"Don't Be So Rough, Jim, I Can't Play To-night." A very pathetic character song for medium voice (male or female), or may be sung as a duet. The words are sensible, but touching. The melody is captivating, while the accompaniment is brilliant and effective. Not difficult. A happy addition to any program. 25 cents.

Emblem of Freedom. A flag song with plenty of action. A fitting tribute to Old Glory. Sheet music. Solo and words by Elizabeth F. Guptill, music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. 25 cents.

Fin de Siecle Arbor Day Exercises. By Miss Anna Sitler. A generous collection of the choicest quotations from noted authors, clever recitations, unique exercises, and other splendid features. Full of good things. Just what you need. 15 cents.

Feast in the Wilderness, A. A children's play for Christmas. Bright and clever, with a touch of humor. A dialogue with a point. Has a good moral tone and a fine climax. May be given anywhere. Suitable for a church or school entertainment. 3 boys, 1 girl. Time, 15 minutes. 15 cents.

Festive Songs for Little Singers.. With actions. Words by Elizabeth F. Guptill, music by Archibald Humboldt. This book embraces rote songs for school singing and action songs for public entertainments. A superb collection of original songs of unusual merit, descriptive of nature and life, each with numerous actions, which are fully explained. An appropriate and tuneful new melody is provided for each song. In addition, familiar airs are suggested for those who prefer them. The songs may be sung by the entire school, or in entertainments by one or more children. 25 cents.

Fin de Siecle Christmas Exercises. Incomparably the best book of Christmas exercises published. Contains original recitations, songs, class exercises, etc. Separate program for each grade. 15 cents.

Fin de Siecle Lincoln Birthday Exercises. By Archibald Humboldt. For all grades. Practical and instructive, but decidedly pleasing. A sure success. Contains Lincoln's epigrams, anecdotes and speeches, a poem by Lincoln, original songs, recitations and class exercises or dialogues; all that is needed for Lincoln Day. 15 cents.

Fin de Siecle Thanksgiving Exercises. Contains material for several entertainments. Separate program for each grade. Original songs, recitations, dialogues and many other features. Bright, enthusiastic, sensible. 15 cents.

Fin de Siecle Washington's Birthday Exercises. For primary, intermediate and high schools. Spicy recitations, dialogues, tableaux, original songs and other features. Nothing impracticable or undesirable. Just what every teacher wishes. 15 cents.

Greatest General, The. Com-Motion song. Words and music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. A humorous song which may be rendered with telling effect. For any number. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Hatchet March and Drill. A new spectacular entertainment for Washington's Birthday, for either 16 or 24 boys. Not difficult, but very effective and beautiful. Decidedly unique and original. 15 cents.

Hallowe'en Adventure, A. A lively play for grammar grades or adults, by Effie Louise Koogle. Full of ghostly excitement and spooky frolic. Specially suited for social occasions. 3 males and 8 females required, though more may take part. 3 scenes. One hour. 15 cents.

Heir of Mt. Vernon, The. A Colonial Society Play for any occasion, in which Washington's social life, sterling manhood and courteous manners are portrayed. In one scene Christmas is celebrated in rare plantation style. Lively with old plantation melodies and pranks. By Effie Louise Koogle. For grammar grades or adults. Four scenes. 8 boys and 8 girls, or more will be better. 1 to 2 hours. 25 cents.

Holiday's Carnival, The. A unique entertainment for 16 children. The Holidays, including St. Valentine's Day, April Fool's Day, Easter, Labor Day, Pilgrim's Day, Children's Day, Hallowe'en, and nine others, are represented by children in taking costumes. Each has a speaking part, and there is a chorus for each Day. The tunes are familiar, Splendidly planned and written. The march at the close makes a brilliant climax. Time 30 minutes. 15 cents.

How She Managed It. A very clever society play for 1 male, 1 female. Parlor scene, 20 minutes. A young lady resorts to a very plausible plot for securing a proposal, and succeeds. 15 cents.

How to Celebrate Washington's Birthday, Arbor Day, Decoration Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and the birthdays of authors and noted men. Arranged by Prof. John R. Shedd, Miss Ida M. Hedrick, Mrs. Emma T. March, Mrs. E. E. Chester, Archibald Humboldt. Full and complete programs provided for every holiday, and for the birthdays of authors and noted men—20 in all. The programs are suited for any school, are practical and delightful. 25 cents.

In Santa Claus Land. An original Christmas play for children, in four scenes. Introduces Santa Claus, his wife and baby, the Fairies and Brownies. Full of novel and striking features. A succession of happy incidents. The text is in rhyme, bright and clever, and having a merry jingle, but showing excellent literary style. For children of all ages. 10 male and 12 female characters. Time, 1 hour. 25 cents.

In the Days I Went to School. A humorous descriptive song in which the old ways and the new are compared. Words and music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. A choice solo. Sheet music. 25 cents.

In the Wake of Paul Revere. A play for grammar and high schools, by Elizabeth F. Guptill. Abounds in thrilling adventure and clever wit. The historical setting furnishes a plot of deep interest, which is well sustained throughout. A splendid play for any time. 25 cents.

Jack Frost's Mistake. By Clara J. Denton. A very clever one act operetta, for Thanksgiving or any time. There are four speaking parts, and a chorus of any number. The music is given, and as the airs are all familiar, the whole is easily prepared. The costume directions are simple, but wonderfully effective. This will prove a great success. For eight or more boys. 45 minutes. 25 cents.

Just After Christmas Dinner. A charming Christmas song revealing the best of all. Bright and pleasing. Words and music by Effie Louise Koogle. Solo for boy or girl, or chorus for any number of children. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Knickerbockers at School, The. School life in New Amsterdam when the colony was young, and very "Dutch." Current events form an important part. A most amusing and highly entertaining production, by Effie Louise Koogle. Any number of characters, any age. One hour. 25 cents.

Kick for Old St. Nick, A. A jolly new Christmas Song clamoring for the rights of a much-abused Old St. Nick. A bunch of fresh ideas set to bright, catchy music. Solo for boy, girl, Old St. Nick, or a chorus for children. Words and music by Effie Louise Koogle. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Little Heroine of the Revolution, A. A play for all ages. By Elizabeth F. Guptill. A little girl is sent ostensibly to play with a friend, but really to carry a message to General Marion. She is captured by the British, but by her cleverness, deceives them, and reaches her destination. Full of historic interest. 10 males, 5 females. More boys may be added as soldiers if desired. 25 cents.

Little Mothers. A splendid motion song, portraying the trials of a company of little housekeepers. Words by Elizabeth F. Guptill, music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. For any number. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Little Pinks of Propriety. Character song for any number of very prim little Pilgrim maidens. A very pleasing and effective production. Words and music by Effie Louise Koogle. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Li'l Pickannin's Parlance. A song of rare beauty. Words and music by Effie Louise Koogle. Suggestive of plantation life. A sweet melody with beautiful accompaniment. May be sung as solo by young or old, or as duet. Sheet music, 25 cents.

Little Pieces for Little People. 20 cards containing 29 bright, pretty recitations for boys and girls from 5 to 10 years. Teachers like these pieces because of their convenient form. Being printed on cards, all wearisome copy is avoided. 10 cents.

Little Virginia 'Ristocrats. A clever duet or chorus for haughty little men and ladies, who with a "'ristocratic air" proclaim their "excellence rare, beyond compare," and tell why they are "so 'ristocratic." Words and music by Effie Louise Koogle. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Lost Prince, The. By Elizabeth F. Guptill. A Fairy play for children and young folks. The plot is most interesting. The Prince, a babe in arms, is spirited away by a wicked Fairy, who refuses to consider any offer for his ransom. Death is threatened. The wicked Fairy is pursued by the Princess under guidance of the good Fairies, and after many difficulties and hardships, the Prince is rescued. Directions are given for providing very effective costumes at little or no expense, and with a little care a most elaborate presentation may be had. 6 male, 9 female characters. More may be used effectively if desired. 25 cents.

Lohengrin. A Musical Burlesque for Wax Figures. By Harriet E. Smith. A most unique entertainment novelty. The performers imitate wax figures with their vacant stare and jerky movements, and sing killing songs to popular melodies. A never-failing success. Very easy to learn and render. May be given by seven persons, male or female, though more may be used to advantage. Time, 1 hour. 25 cents.

Lovers of All Ages. By Kathryn R. Harris. A very unique entertainment for high schools, clubs, colleges or adults. Represents the famous lovers of all times, from Eve to Alice Roosevelt. Makes a most interesting and beautiful presentation. Lively with humor. 1 male, 13 female characters and a cupid. Time, ¾ hour. 25 cents.

Master George Washington; His Sixth Birthday Party. A charming little play for any number of boys and girls, but five of each required. A glimpse of Washington's home life in childhood days. Written by Effie Louise Koogle. Two scenes, 30 minutes. 15 cents.

Menagerie in the School-room, A. A play for children. As many as forty characters may be introduced, but can be easily given by a less number. An original and very entertaining play for boys and girls. Can not fail to keep the audience in a roar from beginning to end. Occupies one hour. A splendid entertainment. 15 cents.

Merry Farmers, The. A costume song for small boys. They tell how to raise the biggest crops. A success. Words by Elizabeth F. Guptill, music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Merry Little Witches, Bewitching. A unique song novelty for any number of little girls. Very clever. The music is lively and exceedingly pretty. May also be sung by larger girls. By Effie Louise Koogle. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Mill, The. Solo and chorus descriptive of the old mill and the "Miller gray." A pretty and pleasing song. Words by Elizabeth F. Guptill, music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Mud Pies. A cute costume song for little cooks. Decidedly pleasing. For any number of girls. Words by Elizabeth F. Guptill, music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Newsboys' Thanksgiving, The. A jolly new play. Four city newsboys go to the country on Thanksgiving Day, make the acquaintance of farmer Brown and his family. They have a merry time and a good dinner. Sensible, but full of fun. 6 male, 4 female characters. No troublesome requirements. Time, 40 minutes. 15 cents.

New Celebrations for Last Day of School, Flag Day, and Bird Day. Arranged by Miss Ida M. Hedrick. Ample material of all kinds—songs, recitations, dialogues, etc., from which the teacher may select a full program suited to her grade. The author has had large experience in writing and compiling entertainments, and has learned to provide the much-coveted material that insures a successful entertainment. Not a dull number in the collection. 25 cents.

Night Before Christmas, The. An intensely interesting drama by Alice E. Allen, with a most absorbing plot. Written in a very captivating manner. Contains new songs by Archibald Humboldt. An excellent entertainment for grammar or high schools, or for mixed grades. 8 boys and 6 girls, with as many more as desired. Time, ¾ hour. 25 cents.

November's Crown. A new spectacular entertainment for Thanksgiving. Easy to present, but wonderfully brilliant and pleasing. A striking success. For 14 girls and boys. 15 cents.

Old Sweet Dream, The. The most charming ballad extant. A love song with sensible words and irresistible melody, gracefully sustained by a beautiful accompaniment of unusual brilliancy. Not difficult. A delightful song for any occasion. Words and music by Effie Louise Koogle. Sheet music. Soprano or tenor. 25 cents.

Pat and His Countrymen. By Clara J. Denton. A dialogue for two boys (grammar or high school). Abounds in valuable information concerning the Irish in America, and an abundance of spicy wit. Splendid for St. Patrick's Day. 15 minutes. 15 cents.

Peterkins and Polly, Very Dutch, but Quite Jolly. A very amusing Dutch costume song by Effie Louise Koogle. Duet for boy and girl. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Quarrel, The. An amusing duet for a little boy and girl. Very easy, but sure to please the audience. If you have a boy and girl who can sing a little be sure to get this to round out your program. It is a mirth provoker. The words are descriptive of a children's quarrel, very true to life, and decidedly humorous. The melody is pleasing, while the accompaniment adds much to the brilliancy of the production. The music is not difficult. The piece can be rendered successfully with little effort. Will fit anywhere and add spice to the program. 25 cents.

Recitations for Primary Grades, Original and Unique. By Elizabeth F. Guptill. A collection of original recitations of an unusual sort. Every one is as interesting as a story, and every one has a very decided point. Not a recitation in the collection that is dull or impractical. 15 cents.

Rose March and Drill. For 16 girls. A beautiful spectacular entertainment for any occasion. The costumes, though easy to provide, are most charming. The movements of the march are easily learned by the aid of the diagrams provided, but the effect is most striking. 15 cents.

Royalty in Old Virginia. Historical play, recounting the life of Powhatan, Pocahontas, and Captain John Smith. Abounds in exciting interest and thrilling adventure. Contains special music of a characteristic nature. For larger pupils or adults. Any number, but five girls and eight boys required. 3 scenes. 40 minutes. Written by Effie Louise Koogle. 25 cents.

Run-a-Way Bear, The. By Edna Randolph Worrell. A musical play or operetta for any number of children. A unique plot, a bunch of clever puns and witticisms, and original music; the most melodious and pleasing combine to make one of the rarest of up-to-date entertainments. Introduces "Teddy Bear Parade" with catchy music. Costumes simple and no bothersome requirements. Easy to learn, easy to give. Time, a half hour or longer. Music and dialogue complete. 40 cents.

Spear Drill. For 16 girls. A very easy entertainment to arrange. Costumes are simple, the movements not intricate. Suitable for small girls. Very pretty. 15 cents.

Stars and Stripes Jubilee, The. A Patriotic Spectacular Entertainment, by Elizabeth F. Guptill. Introduces Uncle Sam, Columbia, and representatives from the Colonies and different sections of the country. Includes a new march and a number of new and striking solos and choruses, with music by Archibald Humboldt. May be made very elaborate and effective. 7 male, 28 female characters. By "doubling up" 15 girls will answer. 25 cents.

Sunflower March. For 16 boys. A very amusing entertainment. The costumes are alike front and back, and the movements occasion much merriment. Full directions and diagrams. 15 cents.

Surprised Grumbler, or How Kris Kringle Made a Convert, A. A new Christmas operetta. John Grumble said Santa Claus was a myth, and gave the children a world of trouble. By means of a novel invention they found Santa, and induced him to call on Grumble. Brilliant music and sparkling words. Full of life. Original, jolly and clever; sure to captivate the audience. Requires about 25 minutes. 15 cents.

Thanksgiving in Brownie-Land. By Effie Louise Koogle. A rollicking play for boys. For any time. Full of life and fun. With November's Crown, 15 cents.

That Boy George, and the Lincoln League. Two very unique and original dialogues by Mabel E. Eaton. In the former the characters are Uncle Sam, George Washington, two little girls and a chorus. In the latter there are 6 boys and 7 girls (grammar or high school). Both are very novel and highly entertaining. Easily prepared and splendidly effective. 15 cents.

"'Twas Thee!" "'Twas Thou!" "And This I Avow!" A Quaker contention. A delightful song, very droll and quaint. For any occasion. Very popular. Duet for small boy and girl. Words and music by Effie Louise Koogle. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Twentieth Century Christmas Exercises, The. Contains a diversified profusion of new and original dialogues and other material for the school entertainment. For all grades, up-to-date, of a high quality, sensible and pleasing. 15 cents.

Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Exercises, The. Provides an abundance of choice new material, including several dialogues for celebrating Thanksgiving in the school-room. Practical, gratifying, sensible. 15 cents.

Two Crusty Little Pies. A "dough"-ful story. Why the pies were "crusty." An attraction for any occasion and especially good for Washington's Birthday Exercises. May be sung as solo, duet by boy and girl, or by any number of children. Words and music by Effie Louise Koogle. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Two Recitations, The. For Thanksgiving. A jolly new operetta. [illegible] from beginning to end. The music is bright and catchy. Full of c[illegible] hits. Easy to give. For 4 boys and 5 girls. 15 cents.

Uncle Sam's Brigade. A new operetta. A patriotic novelty with pat[illegible]e, otic pranks. Uncle Sam displays some notions of his own. National Songs and Tableaux introduced. By Effie Louise Koogle. 15 cents.

Up-to-date America, or the Sweet Girl Graduate's Dream. Drama-Caprice by Effie Louise Koogle. Unique and exceedingly humorous. Splendid plot. Scene in Art Museum. The peculiarities and repartees of the various visitors afford unbounded amusement during the first scene. In the second, the "sweet girl graduates," rehearsing their commencement play are startled by numerous sight-seers and the re-enlivened wax figures, making no end of fun. The plot grows quite tragic, and ends with a happy surprise, forming an admirable climax. 10 males, 10 females, though many more may be used. Time, one to two hours. 25 cents.

Visit from Mother Goose and Her Family, A. A descriptive pantomime play, suitable for church or school entertainment. Can be played by children or adults. Easily staged. Full directions about preparing and performing, suggestions about costumes, etc. Takes one hour. A splendid entertainment. 15 cents.

Washington Celebration at Riverside, The. Something new in entertainments. A "continuous performance" or play, introducing many novel features. If given as arranged, it provides a complete entertainment. Or the several features may be used independently. The collection embraces recitations, dialogues, drills and marches, tableaux or charades, and several new and up-to-date songs, words and music complete. Most of the material is original, and entirely out of the ordinary. It is full of fun. Written by Archibald Humboldt. 25 cents.

Washington Guards and Ladies of Honor, The. A happy combination drill and cantata, including the attractions of each, but made so easy that almost any school can give it. Introduces George and Martha Washington in solos and duet. Can best be given by 10 boys and 10 girls, though fewer will answer. Delightfully pleasing. 15 cents.

Wave Old Glory. A patriotic song with rousing chorus. A splendid marching song. For any number of singers. Words by Elizabeth F. Guptill, music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. Sheet music. 25 cents.

When Visitors Come 'Round. A humorous descriptive song, telling how our school "shows off" before visitors. A sure success for all occasions. Words and music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. 25 cents.

"We Wouldn't Say a Word, But 'Tis Quite Absurd." A shocking state of affairs depicted. For any number of Puritan boys and girls. A clever little song for any time, especially good for Thanksgiving Exercises. Words and music by Effie Lousie Koogle. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Wrap Me in the Dear Old Flag, Boys. A very pathetic descriptive song, suitable for Memorial Day, or any patriotic occasion, or for concert uses. An unusually meritorious production. May be sung as solo, or rendered as a musical recitation. Words and music by Harry Carleton Eldridge. Sheet music. 25 cents.

Wood Fairies, The. An Arbor Day entertainment. Characters: The Fairy Queen, 13 fairies, and a number of pupils. A bright and pleasing entertainment. If you want an Arbor Day program try this. 15 cents.

Wooing Jane. A bright society play in one act. Parlor scene. 2 males, 2 females. 20 minutes. Thurston's train leaves in half an hour. He tries to propose to Jane but is interrupted. The incidents are exciting and amusing. He finally succeeds. 15 cents.

Yankee Doodle's Trip to Dixie. A Revolutionary Adventure, and what came of it. Full of patriotism, and intensely interesting. For grammar grades, larger pupils, or adults. By Effie Louise Koogle. Three scenes. 6 males and 6 females. More may take part. 30 minutes. 15 cents.

Ye Merry Tunes for Ye Modern Lads and Lasses. By Harry Carleton Eldridge. By all odds far the best collection of school songs ever published. The words are sensible, elevating, and full of life, while the music is catchy, harmonious, and pleasing. Contains excellent selections for concerts, Christmas, Washington Day, and other patriotic exercises and other occasions. Full of good things. 15 cents; $1.50 per dozen.

Colonial March and Drill. A new spectacular entertainment for Washington's Birthday for either 16 or 24 boys. Not difficult, but very effective and beautiful. Decidedly unique and original. 15c.

Fin de Siecle Lincoln's Birthday Exercises By Archibald Humboldt. For all grades. Practical and instructive, but decidedly pleasing. A sure success. Contains Lincoln's epigrams, anecdotes and speeches, a poem by Lincoln, original songs, recitations and class exercises or dialogues; all that is needed for Lincoln Day. 15c.

How to Celebrate Washington's Birthday, Arbor Day, Decoration Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, and the birthdays of authors and noted men. Arranged by Prof. John R. Shedd, Miss Ida M. Hedrick, Mrs. Emma T. March, Mrs. E. E. Chester, Archibald Humboldt. Full and complete programs provided for every holiday, and for the birthdays of authors and noted men—20 in all. The programs are suited to any school, are practical and delighful. 25c.

FOR ARBOR DAY.

Fin de Siecle Arbor Day Exercises. By Miss Anna Sitler. A generous collection of the choicest quotations from noted authors, clever recitations, unique exercises, and other splendid features. Full of good things. Just what you need. 15c.

The Wood Fairies. An Arbor Day entertainment. Characters: The Fairy Queen, 13 fairies, and a number of pupils. A bright and pleasing entertainment. If you want an Arbor Day program, try this. 15c.

FOR ANY TIME.

Al Martin's Country Store. A burlesque entertainment for from 15 to 30 participants. Written by Archibald Humboldt and Martelle Everett. This entertainment is unsurpassed for merriment, taking qualities and ease of production. A country store with all its peculiar environments is depicted. The loafers, the small customers, the gossipers, the lovers, the innocent fun-makers, all have parts. The lifelike realty of all that takes place gives an irresistible charm to the proceedings. There is a graceful plot that gathers interest as the play proceeds, and culminates in a brilliant climax. Unquestionably the greatest success as a popular entertainment. Time, 1¾ hours. 25c.

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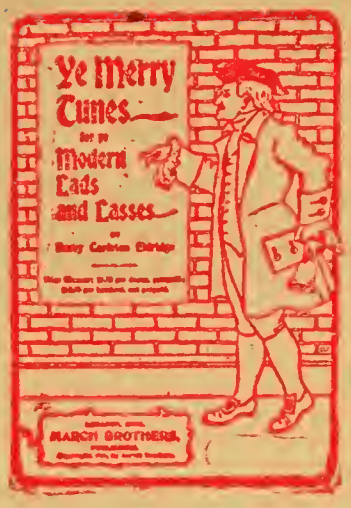

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